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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 25-31 are pending.

Drawings:

The drawings were objected to "because numerous reference numerals have been used to identify all variations of the same name part." Applicant submits that reference numeral 12 refers to a planar element in each of Figs. 1, 2 and 14-20. Reconsideration of this objection is requested. Alternatively, Applicant requests identification by Examiner of the "numerous reference numerals" which are objected to.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 3,922,946 Grayson in view of US Patent 4,190,380 Almer et al.

It is submitted that the combination of Grayson and Almer et al., even if proper, would fail to teach each limitation of the claimed invention.

Claim 1 recites an oblong slot defined by a pair of opposite walls and a coupling member having a non-spherical elongated portion for contacting the opposite walls of the oblong slot, with contact between the elongated portion and the oblong slot occurring across a substantial length of the oblong slot. Grayson does not disclose an elongated portion 10 in contact along a substantial length of the oblong slot 30. Cylindrical element 31 of Grayson contacts the oblong slot along a line or linear region and not along a substantial length of the oblong slot. It is further submitted that cylindrical element 31 would not lock planar member 22 to coupling member 10 when the elongated portion 31 is inserted into the oblong slot as planar member 22 would remain free to rotate relative to coupling member 10 (rotation about an axis of pin 31).

Claim 3 recites an elongated portion of the coupling member includes a pair of generally parallel wall faces extending in contact with the opposite walls of the oblong slot along a length

of the oblong slot . Pin 31 of Grayson does not have a pair of wall faces extending in contact with the opposite walls of the oblong slot 30 along a length thereof.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 27-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 3,345,547 Strong.

It is submitted that the Strong alone fails to teach each limitation of the claimed invention.

Regarding claim 27, Strong does not disclose an engaging portion being non-cylindrical and contacting the non-circular aperture of the first member at multiple points along a length of the non-circular aperture and preventing rotation of the first member relative to said coupling member at least along an axis generally perpendicular to a direction of slot elongation when said engaging portion is inserted into said aperture. To the contrary, pin 65 does not prevent rotation of the member 61 relative to member 62 as member 62 can freely rotate about the axis of pin 65.

35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 10, 11, 13, 14 and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Grayson.

It is submitted that Grayson does not disclose or suggest each and every limitation of the claims.

Regarding claim 10, Grayson does not disclose or suggest contact between the walls of the first member and walls of the coupling member occurring along a length of the slot thereby preventing rotation of the first member relative to the coupling member about an axis generally perpendicular to a direction of elongation of the oblong slot.

Regarding claim 14, Grayson does not disclose a slot preventing rotation of the first member relative to said coupling member about an axis generally perpendicular to the slot when

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the elongated portion of the coupling member is inserted into the slot. Pin 31 of Grayson would not limit rotation of member 10 relative to member 22. To the contrary, element 22 of Grayson is described to be movable along pin 31. Col. 3, lines 48-59.

Regarding claim 27, Grayson does not disclose an engaging portion being non-cylindrical and contacting the non-circular aperture of the first member at multiple points along a length of the non-circular aperture and preventing rotation of the first member relative to said coupling member when the engaging portion is inserted into the aperture. In comparison, pin 10 of Grayson would not prevent rotation of member 10 relative to member 22. Col. 3, lines 48-59.

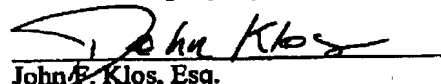
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the pending claims and arguments. Applicant respectfully submits that, as amended, the subject application is in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is kindly requested. Should the Examiner wish to discuss these claims further, or should an Examiner's Amendment be needed in order for the claims to proceed to allowance, the Examiner is invited to direct any questions regarding this application to John Klos at (612) 321-2806.

Any fees associated with a 1-month time extension may be charged to the deposit account of the undersigned, Dep. Acct. #50-1212 (ref. 10112708).

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Respectfully submitted,
Tennant Company, by its attorneys,



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